

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A switch comprising:
  - a coupler accessing signaling channels to transmit signaling messages;
  - an interpreter producing a signaling configuration upon receiving an order to send a signaling message, wherein a type of signaling channel is selected from the signaling channels accessible to the coupler and the signaling configuration produced depends on the selected a-type of signaling channel of the signaling channels accessible to the coupler; and
  - a receiver for adding a receive flag to a received signaling message, wherein the order is a predetermined constant character string.
2. (previously presented): The switch according to claim 1, wherein the coupler further comprises:
  - a detector recognizing whether the received signaling message is addressed to the switch;
  - a processor processing the signaling message when the switch is a destination for the signaling message; and
  - a translator replacing the receive flag with the predetermined character string when the switch is not the destination for the signaling message.

3. (currently amended): A method of sending a signaling message by a switch, the method comprising:

adding to said signaling message a predetermined send order for said signaling message, said adding further comprises the switch receiving the signaling message in a receiving exchange and adding a receive flag to the signaling message; and

interpreting said send order in an interpreter of the switch to produce a signaling configuration of said switch, the signaling configuration produced depends on a selected type of signaling ~~channels~~ channel,

wherein the type of signaling channel is selected from the signaling channels available to the switch, and

wherein the receive flag is a specified constant and the predetermined send order is a specified constant character string.

4. (previously presented): The method according to claim 3, wherein, to add the predetermined character string to the signaling message:

the destination of said signaling message is tested; and

if a destination of the signaling message is different from said receiving exchange, the flag is replaced by said predetermined character string.

5. (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein said interpreter is configured to process at least one of: an IP protocol, a frame relay protocol, an ATM protocol, a switched X25 protocol, a generic modem protocol and a switched B channel protocol.

6. (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein said interpreter is one of (a) a microprocessor associated with a program and (b) a working session in a processor running said switch.

7. (previously presented): The switch of claim 1, wherein said interpreter comprises a circuit configured to process at least one of: an IP protocol, a frame relay protocol, an ATM protocol, a switched X25 protocol, a generic modem protocol and a switched B channel protocol.

8. (previously presented): The switch of claim 1, wherein said interpreter comprises one of (a) a microprocessor associated with a program and (b) a working session in a processor running said switch.

9. (currently amended): ~~The switch of claim 2.~~ A switch comprising:  
a coupler accessing signaling channels to transmit signaling messages;  
an interpreter producing a signaling configuration upon receiving an order to send a  
signaling message, the signaling configuration produced depends on a type of the signaling  
channels accessible to the coupler; and  
a receiver for adding a receive flag to a received signaling message,  
wherein the order is a predetermined constant character string,  
wherein the coupler comprises:

a detector recognizing whether the received signaling message is addressed to the switch,

a processor processing the signaling message when the switch is a destination for the signaling message, and

a translator replacing the receive flag with the predetermined character string when the switch is not the destination for the signaling message, and

wherein the coupler has a plurality of interfaces, wherein each of said interfaces provides access to one of said channels and wherein when a plurality of signaling channels are available to transmit said signaling message, a next available signaling channel is selected in a chronological order and the signaling message is configured to produce the signaling configuration for the next available signaling channel.

10. (previously presented): The switch according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined constant character string remains unchanged regardless of a type of the available signaling channels.

11. (previously presented): The switch of claim 2, wherein when the signaling message is received by the switch, the receiver adds a receive flag to the signaling message and the detector checks the signaling message for the receive flag to determine whether the switch is a designated destination for the signaling message.

12. (currently amended): The switch of claim 2, wherein, when the detector recognizes that the received signaling message is not addressed to the switch, the detector forwards the received signaling message to the translator, and wherein, when the switch is not the destination, the translator receives the signaling message from the detector, the translator replaces the receive flag with the predetermined constant character string regardless of the destination for the signaling message.

13. (previously presented): The switch according to claim 12, wherein when the switch is not the destination, the translator replaces the receive flag with the predetermined constant character string regardless of the signaling configuration of said signaling message.

14. (new): The method according to claim 3, wherein, when the switch adds the send order to the signaling message, the switch selects the type of signaling channel from the signaling channels available at the switch for transmitting the signaling message, and the interpreter of the switch produces the signaling configuration for the signaling message based on the selected type of signaling channel.

15. (new): A switch comprising:  
a coupler accessing signaling channels of different types to transmit signaling messages;  
an interpreter producing a signaling configuration upon receiving an order to send a signaling message, wherein the signaling configuration produced for the signaling message depends on a selected type of signaling channel, and wherein the type of signaling channel is

selected from different types of the signaling channels available at the coupler to transmit signaling messages; and

        a receiver for adding a receive flag to a received signaling message,  
        wherein the order is a predetermined constant character string, and  
        wherein the selection of the type of signaling channel for producing the signaling configuration is based on a predetermined criteria.

16. (new): The switch according to claim 15, wherein the coupler has a plurality of interfaces, wherein each of said interfaces provides access to one of said channels, and wherein when a plurality of signaling channels are available to transmit said signaling message, an available signaling channel is selected based on the predetermined criteria and the signaling message is configured to produce the signaling configuration for the available signaling channel.